(b) Based on field visit the following works have been identified:—

1. Development/Repairs of Ram Ki Paidi.
2. Development of River Front/Green Belt as far as seven kilometers.
3. Development of smaller Parikarma route.
4. Development of Kunds.
5. Development of Gardens.
6. Installation of Sound and Light Show conceived around Ramayana story.
7. Construction of a neat and attractive tourist resort.

Out of the above, for Ram Ki Paidi a sum of Rs.98.18 lakhs has been sanctioned and released to CPWD. CPWD has been asked to do its best to complete the work within six months.

Proposal for Opening Protected Monuments for Prayers

95. PROF M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open protected monuments for offering prayers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) No, sir. However religious character of the monument and ritual practices if any, that existed at the time of protection are retained even after they are declared to be of national importance.

Tourism Potential of Karnataka Coastline

96. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that strict provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone are hampering tapping of enormous tourism potential of the vast coastline of Karnataka;

(b) whether the State Government has approached the Central Government for a special package to relax the strict norms to help the State do develop the beaches for tourist traffic, if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) the action plan of the State to develop tourism in the coastal belts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism is of the view that the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification restricts development of sustainable tourism in a sensitive manner in the coastal areas.

(b) and (c) The Department of Tourism has requested the Governments of coastal States including the Government of Karnataka to identify suitable areas as Special Tourism Zones. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has also been requested to consider relaxation for such Special Tourism Zones.

Setting up of River Basin Organisations

97. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions have been held or are proposed to be held with the States for establishment of River Basin Organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Government are expected to set up the River Basin Organisations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Water Resources has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources to deliberate upon various mode(s) of River Basin Organisations and to recommend the most suitable one(s)for meeting the objectives of sustainable and optimal development of water resources of the country. The members of the Committee are: Water Resources/ Irrigation Secretaries of Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Commissioner (Policy & Planning), Ministry of Water Resources is its Member Secretary. Three meetings of the Committee have been held so far. The recommendation of the Committee on the model structure for River Basin Organisations have to be considered by the National Water Board.